

## **ACTION ALERT!!**

### **SB 876 (Liu). Enforcement of Local Ordinances**

#### **OPPOSE**

##### **Background for SB 876 (Liu):**

This measure would preempt local authority to address important issues affecting public health and safety in public spaces and on private property that is held open to the public, including not limited to, plazas, courtyards, parking lots, sidewalks, public transportation facilities, public buildings, shopping centers and parks. In such areas, homeless individuals would be empowered to occupy such spaces indefinitely, including with tents and other shelter, while reducing access to all other members of the public.

Despite this bill being well-intended, SB 876 (Liu) would not solve the challenges of homelessness in our state and within our communities. The bill contains no solutions for homelessness. It offers no new programs, no funding for housing, and no effort to improve services. In fact, the bill on page 3, line 16, specifically states, "Passing this Act will not reduce homelessness." Instead, it creates a special set of exemptions and privileges for one group of people and undermines the equal applicability of laws.

Local agencies must continue to be able to protect the public, health, safety and welfare of their communities.

This measure will not make a positive impact in the effort to address chronic homelessness.

- **WE SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE LEGISLATION:** *While we oppose this measure's approach, the League is committed to supporting efforts across the state and in our communities that address the homeless issue in a constructive manner. We are encouraged by Senator de León's recent "No Place Like Home" proposal that will provide much needed funding for housing for the mentally ill homeless, and augmentations to existing shelter resources.*
- In 2016 the League is engaged in many efforts to respond to the challenge of housing affordability and addressing chronic homelessness:  
<http://www.cacities.org/Top/News/News-Articles/2016/February/League-Adopts-Housing-Affordability-as-a-Strategic>

#### **ACTION:**

SB 876 is expected to be scheduled to be heard in Senate Transportation and Housing Committee in the coming weeks.

- 1) If you have a Senator on either of these committees, please **CALL your Senator as soon as possible** and urge their opposition to this measure.
- 2) Please **send a letter of CITY OPPOSITION** to your Senator. Sample letter is attached or you may use the [League's Action Center](#) to submit a letter online.

##### **SENATE TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING MEMBERS**

Member	District	Room	Phone
<a href="#">Allen, Ben</a>	26	2054	916 651 4026
<a href="#">Bates, Patricia</a>	36	4048	916 651 4036

<u>Beall, Jim</u> (Chair)	15	5066	916 651 4015
<u>Cannella, Anthony</u> (Vice Chair)	12	5082	916 651 4012
<u>Gaines, Ted</u>	1	3070	916 651 4001
<u>Galgiani, Cathleen</u>	5	2059	916 651 4005
<u>Leyva, Connie</u>	20	4061	916 651 4020
<u>McGuire, Mike</u>	2	5064	916 651 4002
<u>Mendoza, Tony</u>	32	5061	916 651 4032
<u>Roth, Richard</u>	31	4034	916 651 4031
<u>Wieckowski, Bob</u>	10	3086	916 651 4010

### Talking Points:

- Removing local control to address issues associated with the homeless is the wrong approach. It will make things more difficult in my community and does absolutely nothing to help people get off the streets.
- The key to getting people off of the streets is to provide more shelter. We need resources: permanent housing beds and accompanying social services such as mental health treatment, job training, addiction counseling, etc. Cities and other local agencies need more funding and flexibility to provide these proven programs. Additionally, these services should be provided as a coordinated effort. Removing local enforcement authority as proposed in SB 876 will do nothing to help the problem, and would actually undermine existing efforts.
- As an alternative, the Senate should support Senator De Leon's proposal and other options that provide us something constructive to work with.
- Removing local authority would also remove incentives for some chronically homeless to take advantage of existing resources and services being offered. For example, some local jurisdictions host legal clinics where homeless clinic participants can have citations and related fines removed from their records in exchange for community service and for taking advantage of housing and other services.
- (Give Examples of things your city is doing) Many cities and counties are finding solutions to combating homelessness; examples consist of building and developing permanent supportive housing, working with counties and non-profits, or offering an information center consisting of difference services that can assist in a variety of ways. Pilot programs have been initiated in northern California that have evidence showing how successful having permanent housing as an option can be for helping the homeless end living on the streets.